

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2, AMEND claims 1 and 3-18, and ADD new claim 19 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method for service provision from a server connected ~~to~~with a client via a network to a user through said client, comprising:

~~a first step of, in response to an access request from said client to said server, judging whether said server becomes accessible by comparing an access number and a submitted access number in response to an access request from said client to said server, said access number being incremented responsive to each request to said server and said submitted access number being incremented responsive to each completion of providing a service from the said server;~~

~~immediately connecting said client to~~with said server; ~~when it is judged that said server becomes accessable~~accessible; and

~~suspending said access request and displaying information of the~~a number of accesses to said server on said client, said information of the number of accesses directly or indirectly indicating a number of uncompleted requests according to said access number and said submitted access number, ~~when it is judged that said server does not become accessable~~inaccessible;

~~a second step of displaying an updated~~ said information of the number of accesses ~~being updated in~~at a fixed time interval on said client after displaying said information of the number of accesses ~~at said first step~~; and

~~a third step of connecting said client whose access request is suppressed~~suspended ~~with to~~ said server at ~~the~~a time when said server becomes ~~accessable~~accessible after displaying said information of the number of accesses ~~at said first step~~.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2,

wherein when said server ~~becomes~~is accessible-accessible ~~at said third step~~, information that shows said server ~~becomes~~is accessible-accessible is displayed on said client before ~~accessing~~access to said server.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein when said server ~~becomes~~is accessible-accessible ~~at said third step~~, a message ~~that means~~indicating that said server ~~becomes~~is accessible-accessible is uttered by voice from said client before ~~accessing~~access to said server.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein when said server ~~becomes~~is accessible-accessible ~~at said third step~~, an E-mail that ~~shows~~indicates said server ~~becomes~~is accessible-accessible is sent to a pre-registered mail address of said user before ~~accessing~~access to said server.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to either of ~~claims claim 1 through 5~~, wherein ~~when~~ said fixed time interval ~~at said second step~~ is varied according to said information of the number of accesses.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to either of ~~claims claim 1 through 6~~, wherein said information of the number of accesses displayed on said client includes information that shows ~~what number~~ a sequential order of when said server ~~becomes~~is accessible-accessible.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to either of ~~claims claim 1 through 7~~, wherein when said information of the number of accesses is displayed on said client, an estimated time ~~before of when~~ said server becomes ~~accessible~~ accessible, which is obtained according to a time varied condition of said information of the number of accesses, is ~~further~~ displayed.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further comprising ~~a step of~~:

~~urging requesting~~ a password input ~~for from~~ said user ~~while a period~~ before the said server becomes ~~accessible~~ accessible, and ~~accessing~~ allowing access of said client to said server ~~at that time~~ upon the password input, regardless of said ~~judgment~~ determination whether

said server becomes ~~accessible~~accessible, when authorizing that said input password is correct.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to ~~claims~~claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein when said provided service is for commodity sales, ~~the~~a number of sellable goods in stock is further displayed at the time of displaying said information of the number of accesses on said client.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, information that shows the commodity sales of goods is finished is displayed on said client.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein when said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, a message that ~~means~~indicates said commodity sales of goods is finished is uttered by voice from said client.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein when said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, an E-mail that ~~shows~~indicates said commodity sales of goods is finished is sent to a pre-registered mail address of said user.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a step of~~:

displaying said information of the number of accesses for said client accessing to said server, ~~when it is judged upon determining that said server does not become available~~is inaccessible.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method for service provision from a server connected ~~to~~with a client via a network to a user through said clients, comprising:

~~a first step in which at the time determining whether said server becomes accessible by~~
comparing an access number and a submitted access number when said client sends an access request to said server, said access number being incremented responsive to each request to said server and said submitted access number being incremented responsive to each completion of providing a service from the said server;

~~said client is immediately connected~~ connecting said client to ~~with~~ said server, when it is judged upon determining that said server becomes ~~is~~ accessible; ~~;~~

~~and suspending~~ said access request is suppressed and ~~said client displays~~ displaying said information of ~~the~~ a number of accesses of said server, via said client when it is judged upon determining that said server ~~does not become accessible~~ is not accessible, said information of the number of accesses directly or indirectly indicating a number of uncompleted requests according to said access number and said submitted access number;

~~a second step in which~~ displaying an updated ~~said client displays~~ said information of the number of accesses via said client, where the information is updated ~~in~~ at a fixed time interval after displaying said information of the number of accesses ~~at said first step~~; and

~~a third step in which~~ connecting said client is ~~connected to~~ whose access request is suspended with said server when said server becomes ~~accessible~~ accessible after displaying said information of the number of accesses ~~at said first step~~.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 15, wherein said client obtains said updated information of the number of accesses displayed at ~~said second step in~~ said fixed time interval.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 15, wherein said client judges whether said server becomes ~~accessible~~ accessible ~~at said third step~~ when said client is connected with said server.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision system, which includes first, second and third servers connected ~~to~~ with a client via a network, for service provision from said third server to a user through said client, wherein:

said first server, in response to an access request from said client to said third server, immediately connects said client ~~to~~ with said third server, when said third server becomes ~~accessible~~ accessible, and connects said client to said second ~~sever~~ server; when said third server does not become available; and

said second server displays said information of ~~the~~ a number of accesses of said third server on said client, where said information of the number of accesses directly or indirectly indicates a number of uncompleted requests according to an access number and an submitted access number, when connected ~~to~~ with said client, displays the information of the number of accesses updated ~~in~~ at a fixed time interval after that, and connects said client to said third

server at the time said third ~~server~~server becomes ~~aeessable~~accessible, and

where it is determined whether said third server becomes accessible by comparing the access number and the submitted access number in response to the access request from said client to said third server, said access number being incremented responsive to each request to said third server and said submitted access number being incremented responsive to each completion of providing a service from the said third server.

19. (NEW) A service providing method of a server connected with a client via a network, comprising:

comparing an access number incremented responsive to each request to the server and a submitted access number incremented responsive to each completion of a service provided from the said server, upon receipt of a request from the client, to determine whether the server is accessible;

suspending the request from the client upon determining that the server is inaccessible and displaying a number of accesses including uncompleted requests on the client; and

connecting the client with the server when the server becomes accessible, where the number accesses including the uncompleted requests is determined according to the access number and the submitted access number.